

## ***NEW AND WONDERFUL LIFE IN THE SPIRIT PART 2***

Paul's letter to a group of Christians that at the moment were free of persecution but needed a good teaching on the depth of their faith...what they believed and why they believed and why it was important. |...It is a matter of critical importance that Christians not think of God as a ruler who "ad-libs" His dominion of the universe.

- God does not "make it up as he goes along"...Nor is he a bumbling administrator who is so inept in His planning that His blueprint for redemption... The Bible... must be endlessly subject to revision according to the actions of men.
- The God of Scripture has no "plan b or plan c" ...His "plan a" is from everlasting to everlasting
- It is both perfect and unchangeable because it rests on God's eternal character, which among other things is holy, all knowing and absolute.
- His plans are not corrected because He has gained new knowledge that He lacked at the beginning.
- God's eternal plans as revealed in scripture never change because He never changes and because perfection cannot be improved upon!

So today we are going to look at **Romans 8 begins with no condemnation; it ends with no separation, and in between there is no defeat.** ...

1. *(Rom 8:1 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. Romans 8:2 And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.*

- The simple declaration of no condemnation comes to those who are in Christ Jesus. The verdict is *not* "less condemnation." Since God the Father does not condemn Jesus, neither can the Father condemn those who are in Jesus. **They are not condemned, they will not be condemned, and they cannot be condemned.**
- **If we are one with Jesus and He is our head, we can't be condemned. You can't acquit the head and condemn the hand.** the verdict: "no condemnation."
  - The law of sin and death was a strong and seemingly absolute law.

- **But the law of the Spirit of life in Christ is stronger** and the law of the Spirit frees us from the law of sin and death.

### **We are empowered by the Spirit who lives in us...**

*Romans 8: 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.*

- **Because the Holy Spirit is given to each believer when they are born again, every Christian has within themselves a being higher and more powerful than the sin nature**

*Eph 1:13 ..... And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. <sup>14</sup> The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.*

**\*\*\*\*\* This simply means Living as the child of God you are!!!. It is common sense Children of God should be led by the Spirit of God.**

<sup>14</sup> *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup> So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."*

- **Now listen don't think that being led by the Spirit is a pre-condition to being a son of God. Instead, we become children first ...he adopted us then we received the Holy Spirit and then the Spirit of God leads us.**
- **For you did not receive the spirit of slave again to fear being alone and without help..., but you received the Spirit of adoption: Living as a child of God means an intimate, joyful relationship with God, not like the bondage and fear demonstrated sinful nature.**
- **A child of God can have a relationship with God so close that they may cry out, Abba, Father! (Daddy!)**

**1)In the Roman world of the first century ad an adopted child was deliberately chosen by their adoptive father ...they would the lineage and the name and inherit his estate; they were in no way inferior in status to a natural born child.**

2) Under Roman adoption, the life and standing of the adopted child changed completely. The adopted child lost all rights in his old family in this case a slave to sin... and gained all new rights in his new family; the old life of the adopted son was completely wiped out, with all debts being canceled, with nothing from his past counting against him any more.

3. The evidence we are children of God: is the testimony of the Holy Spirit.

*Romans 8:16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.*

- Paul says that those who are God's children, born again by the Spirit of God, know their status because the Holy Spirit testifies to our spirit that this is so.
- There are Christians whose heads are so foggy from spiritual attack that they begin to believe the lie that they are not God's children after all. Nevertheless the witness of the Spirit is still there.
- We are children of God: We don't have to wonder if we are really Christians or not. God's children know who they are.
- Jewish law stated that at the mouth of two or three witnesses everything had to be established (Deuteronomy 17:6). There are two witnesses to our salvation: our own witness and the witness of the Spirit.

Wrap your head around that...my identity is this...I am a child of God

Now Paul speaks of what this new identity entails

*Romans 8:17 And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.*

- Two truths...1) Because we are *in Christ*, we have the privilege of relating to the Father as Jesus does. Therefore, we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ eternal life in Resurrected bodies living with God on the earth.... **this inheritance it is a matter of being – of being in the right family. not doing some list of right things!**
- 2) Paul was not *ignorant* or *blind* to the sufferings of human existence; he experienced more suffering than most of us today.

- life on this earth including suffering, this also is included as part of our life, just as it was with Jesus. Life in the Spirit makes us able to understand and endure suffering.
- Because we are in Christ, we are also called to share in His suffering. God's children are not immune from trials and suffering and the pain of death...
- If indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together: In fact, our sharing in present suffering is a condition of our future glorification.
- As far as God is concerned, it is all part of the same package of relationship, no matter how much our flesh may want to have the inheritance and the glory without the suffering.
- **Yet our solace... is this the future glory of our lives will far outweigh the present sufferings.**

*Romans 8:18* **Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.**

two points...1) when we see glory ...the eternal...heaven...Jesus ..all of our troubles hearing will be seen from a completely different emotional and experiential perspective...and will seem like no-thing! An inconvenience at best.

Why? because we will have something radically, experientially, different to compare our suffering too... the Glory of the Heavenly Kingdom! Eternity, and the Magnificence of the Majesty of the King..

2) this revealing of Glory is simply that.. "it is already existent, but not apparent." This Glory is a realm of being just slightly beyond our senses today.

**Remember Paul experienced this...**

*2 Cor 12: <sup>3</sup> Yes, only God knows whether I was in my body or outside my body. But I do know <sup>4</sup> that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell. <sup>5</sup> That experience is worth boasting about, but I'm not going to do it....*

- **the word astounding means beyond belief...the reality was so unbelievable..he cannot describe it in words and was not allowed to even try...**

And John the apostle experienced this too... in the book of Revelation he saw a door opened into heaven. he was actually taken into a dimension of existence, called heaven. and this I how he explains it....

*Rev4:1 Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." 2 And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it. 3 The one sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones—like jasper and carnelian. And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow.*

- **The first thing John saw was a throne and someone sitting on it...and the one on the throne could only be described as colored lights, flashing like jewels -- burning, flashing, pure colors.**
- **There are scholars who feel that the letters of John were written after the book of Revelation. If that is true it may explain why in his first letter he says,**

John says this <sup>1 John:5b.....5</sup> *This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.*

- **So John saw the throne... is the seat of power and absolute authority. And seated upon the throne but he could not see his features through the dazzling lights that danced about the throne.**
- **He manifests Himself in these wonderfully significant colors, and the colors are full of meaning. They indicate that it is not just the Father whom John sees on the throne.**

**It is noteworthy that there are three gemstones mentioned here:**

- **The first one is "jasper," which is really a diamond, the most beautiful of all gems because it has the ability to capture the light and flash it in brilliant displays of color.** Diamonds so beautifully reflect light.
- **Brilliant crystal reflects the dominant attribute of God the Father, His holiness, His perfection. The diamond speaks of the Father -- the holiness of the Father.**

- Diamonds are graded as to whether they are perfect or not; here is a perfect diamond reflecting the perfection of the Father.
- The second stone is the carnelian, or sardius, which was blood red in color -- a glowing, beautiful, blood-red stone. That, of course, reflects the Son. Jesus' willingness to shed His blood on our behalf, to give Himself in redemptive atonement for our sins. He is the Lamb of God, slain for all of us.
- The third color was the emerald. John saw a great rainbow circling the throne, green as an emerald. Green is the color of nature, of creation. A rainbow was first seen at the flood of Noah..

After the terrible holocaust that wiped out the world of that day by a flood, Noah saw in the sky a rainbow, a rainbow of various colors, just as we see them today during a mist or rain. The rainbow was the promise of grace expressed in nature.

*Genesis 9:12 Then God said, "I am giving you a sign of my covenant with you and with all living creatures, for all generations to come. <sup>13</sup> I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth. <sup>14</sup> When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life. <sup>16</sup> When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth."*

That's God's grace shown to the natural world.

- **This rainbow with various shades of green circling the throne speaks of the Holy Spirit administering the holiness and the redemption of God to all creation.** I don't know if you are aware of this, but all rainbows are a circle. We usually see only part of it. Where the rainbow touches the ground we see an arc, but if we saw the whole thing it would be a circle.
- From a scientific perspective, a circular rainbow, a halo, is a type of optical phenomenon, forming a circle 22° around the sun. the sun is in the center! the halo, is a white band circling the sky always at the same height above the horizon as the sun. Millions of ice crystals with their vertical faces, each mirroring the sun around the sky, form the circle.

- **We must never forget that behind all human events is the government of God. Our God reigns! Nothing man does, or can do, alters them in the least degree. That is the throne that John saw.**

**This coming glory will not only be revealed to us, but it will actually be revealed in us. and we and all creation will live in it! It will not only be our liberation...it will be the liberation of all creation!!!**

*Romans 8:19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are.*

Romans 8:20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope,<sup>21</sup> the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.<sup>22</sup> For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

- **creation dies...they suffer because of the sin of man...Damaged creation cries out to be repaired... His plan to repair it. He is going to remodel the old earth on a grand scale...and it too will join the glorious freedom from death and decay that God's kids will enjoy!**
- **We will live again,we will resurrect with new bodies...the earth will be renewed and rebirthed..!! the new life is waiting to be born...**

*Romans 8:23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.<sup>24</sup> We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope<sup>[k]</sup> for it.<sup>25</sup> But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)*

- **our adoption is complete with the redemption of our bodies!**

a. **The earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits:** Paul considers that creation itself is eagerly awaiting the **revealing of the sons of God**. This is because the creation was **subjected to futility** on account of man's sin, and will benefit from the ultimate redemption of men.

i. [Isaiah 11:6-9](#) describes this redemption of creation in that day: *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

- **The sufferings of this present time is no thing compared to what will be...the experience of what will be revealed to us later.. the ongoing never ending glory of eternity and all that that consists of in comparison to what we experience now of trials, trauma and tribulations... the struggling to do right and live right...will feel like a flash a ... moment in time ...**

*so the reality is we inherit this and our troubles now will seem as if they never really existed!!!!*

*Now that is good news!! end*



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- this body though will die because of sin: Because Jesus lives in us, the old man (body) is dead, but the Spirit lives and reigns, and will live out His salvation even through our mortal bodies through resurrection.

**So we have obligation to live in the Spirit. Our debt is to the Spirit, not to the flesh.**

*Romans 8:12 Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. <sup>13</sup> For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature,<sup>[f]</sup> you will live.*

- I have then no obligation to the sinful nature...to obey it...and if I do know this it kills!
- **Paul constantly reminds us that living after the flesh ends in *death*. We need the reminder because we are often deceived into thinking that the sin offers us *life*.**

- *But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature :which means to force the sinful flesh to submit to the Spirit,*

Paul tells us that not only are we saved by the work of the Spirit, but we also must follow the Spirit if we want to grow and pursue the life God has for us... which is truly life!

- i. God has put this glory into the believer *right now*. we are his children!
  - . All of creation is awaiting and anticipating this coming glory.

end

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b. **Him who subjected it in hope:** Only God could subject creation **in hope**. This was not ultimately the work of either man or Satan.

c. **The glorious liberty of the children of God:** This benefits not only the children of God themselves, but also all of creation. Until that day, creation **groans and labors with birth pangs**.

d. **The revealing of the sons of God:** Certain groups with a “super-Christian” mentality take the idea of the **revealing of the sons of God** to say that all creation is waiting for their particular group of super-spiritual Christians to be revealed in an incredibly powerful fashion. This is a purely egotistical fantasy.

e. **The whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now:** “Creation is not undergoing death pangs... but birth pangs.” (Morris)

3. (Rom 8:23-25) We also groan and wait with perseverance for the coming glory.

a. **Who have the firstfruits of the Spirit:** This means we have a taste of the glory to come. Can we be faulted if we long for the *fulfillment* of what we have received in the **firstfruits**?

b. **Eagerly waiting for the adoption:** We are waiting for our **adoption**. Although there is a sense in which we are already adopted (Romans 8:15), there is also a sense in which we wait for the consummation of our adoption which will happen at **the redemption of our body**.

i. God does not ignore our physical bodies in His plan of redemption. His plan for these bodies is *resurrection*, when *this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality* (1 Corinthians 15:53).

c. **We eagerly wait for it with perseverance:** The fulfillment of our redemption is something still distant, yet we **hope** for it in faith and **perseverance**, trusting that God is faithful to His word and the promised glory will be a reality.

i. Morris on **perseverance**: “It is the attitude of the soldier who in the thick of battle is not dismayed but fights on stoutly whatever the difficulties.”

4. (Rom 8:26-27) God’s help through the Spirit is available to us now.

*Romans 8:26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. <sup>27</sup> And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers<sup>[1]</sup> in harmony with God’s own will.*

a. **Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses:** When we are weak, and do not know exactly how we should pray, God Himself (through the Holy Spirit) helps by making intercession for us.

b. **Groanings which cannot be uttered:** This help from the Spirit may include praying with the spiritual gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 14:2, 14-15), but it is certainly not *limited* to praying in an unknown tongue.

i. The idea is simply of communication beyond our ability to express. The deep **groanings** within us cannot be articulated apart from the interceding work of the Holy Spirit.

ii. This, of course, is the *purpose* of the gift of tongues – to enable us to communicate with God in a manner that is not limited to our own knowledge or ability to articulate our heart before God. The purpose of tongues *is not* to prove that we are “filled with the Spirit” or to prove that we are especially spiritual.

c. **According to the will of God:** The Holy Spirit’s help in intercession is perfect because He **searches the hearts** of those whom He helps, and He is able to guide our prayers **according to the will of God**.

5. (Rom 8:28-30) God’s help is an enduring promise; He has the ability to work all things for good and to see us through to glorification.

*Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes everything to work together<sup>[m]</sup> for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. <sup>29</sup> For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn<sup>[n]</sup> among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.*

a. **And we know that all things work together for good:** God’s sovereignty and ability to manage every aspect of our lives is demonstrated in the fact that **all things work together for good to those who love God**, though we must face *the sufferings of this present time* (Romans 8:18). God is able to make even those sufferings work together for our good and His good.

b. **All things:** God is able to work *all things*, not some things. He works them for good **together**, not in isolation. This promise is for those **who love God** in the

Biblical understanding of love, and God manages the affairs of our life because we are **called according to His purpose**.

c. **For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son:** The eternal chain of God's working is seen in the connection between **foreknew, predestined, called, justified, and glorified**. God didn't begin a work in the Romans simply to abandon them in the midst of their present suffering.

i. "Paul is saying that God is the author of our salvation, and that from beginning to end. We are not to think that God can take action only when we graciously give him permission." (Morris)

ii. "Of course I believe in predestination, since it's plainly taught in the Scriptures. The doctrine could be assumed, even if the word was never explicitly used. It's a thrilling truth that doesn't upset me at all. The fact that He chose me and began a good work in me proves that He'll continue to perform it. He wouldn't bring me this far and then dump me." (Smith)

d. **To be conformed to the image of His Son:** However, our participation in this eternal plan is essential, reflected in its goal: that we might be **conformed to the image of His Son**; and this is a process that God does with our cooperation, not something He just "does" to us.

e. **That He might be the firstborn among many brethren:** This is the *reason* for God's plan. He adopts us into His family ([Romans 8:15](#)) for the purpose of making us like Jesus Christ, similar to Him in the perfection of His humanity.

D. The triumphant victory of the life in the Spirit.

1. ([Rom 8:31](#)) Paul begins his conclusion to this section: **If God be for us, who can be against us?**

Romans 8:31 What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?

- **The Key to faith is remembering the words of Scripture ...when circumstances say contradict it!**

- our spiritual understanding is filtered though our current circumstances...instead of our current circumstances filtered through the words of Jesus!!

- This life is passing... resurrected life is forever!!! Not the other way around!!

a. Know this: **If God is for us, who can ever be against us?** If all we had were the first few chapters of the Book of Romans, some might believe that God was *against* us. Now that Paul has shown the lengths that God went to save man from His wrath and equip him for victory over sin and death, who can doubt that God is **for us**?

i. “Our weak hearts, prone to legalism and unbelief, receive these words with great difficulty: *God is for us...*They have failed Him; but He is *for* them. They are ignorant; but He is *for* them. They have not yet brought forth much fruit; but He is *for* them.” (Newell)

ii. Most all men say or think that God is for them – terrorists commit horrible crimes thinking that God is for them. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit guards this statement with an “**if**,” so we may know that just because a man *thinks* God is with him does not make it so. God is only **for us** if we are reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ.

b. **Who can be against us?** Likewise, despite the suffering Christians face, if God is for them, what does it matter if others are against them? One person plus God makes an unconquerable majority.

i. We certainly can be deceived into thinking that **God is for us** when He actually is not (as do cultists and those like them). Yet it cannot be denied that for those who are in Jesus Christ, God is **for** them!

2. (Rom 8:32) Evidence that God is for us: the gift of Jesus Christ.

*Romans 8:32 Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?*

a. **He who did not spare His own Son:** If the Father already gave His ultimate gift, how can we think that He won't give us the smaller gifts?

3. (Rom 8:33-39) The security of the believer in God's love.

*Romans 8:33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. <sup>34</sup> Who then will condemn us? No*

*one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, pleading for us.*

<sup>35</sup> *Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? <sup>36</sup> (As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”<sup>[o]</sup>) <sup>37</sup> No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.*

<sup>38</sup> *And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[p]</sup> neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. <sup>39</sup> No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**a. Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect?** We are secure from every charge against us. If we are declared “not guilty” by the highest Judge, who can bring an additional charge?

**b. Who is he who condemns?** We are secure from all condemnation. If Jesus is our advocate, promoting our benefit, then who can condemn us?

**c. More than conquerors through Him who loved us:** No matter what our circumstances, none of the **sufferings of this present time** can separate us from the love of God. This makes us **conquerors** and more.

i. Earle on **nakedness**: “This term today suggests indecency on parade. Then it meant a lack of clothes simply because one had no ways or means of getting any.”

ii. **Sword**: This word implies execution. It is the only item on the list that Paul had not yet personally experienced (1 [Corinthians 4:11](#), [15:30](#)).

**d. More than conquerors:** How is the Christian *more* than a conqueror?

- He overcomes with a greater *power*, the power of Jesus
- He overcomes with a greater *motive*, the glory of Jesus
- He overcomes with a greater *victory*, losing nothing even in the battle



· He overcomes with a greater *love*, conquering enemies with love and converting persecutors with patience

**e. Nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord:** Nothing which appears to be good or nothing which appears to be evil can **separate us from the love of God.**